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P R E F A C E .

THE years 1856 and 1857, comprised in this, the First Volume of a New Series of the Society's Publications, have witnessed the accession of several new contributors, as well as the continued exertions of former friends. Perhaps the chief feature of the present Volume consists in the mass of historical documents derived from Her Majesty's State Paper Office, as well as from other sources, and now placed on record for the use of future historians.

The Editor trusts that the result of his labours may be indulgently received by the Members at large. No doubt, some faults and errors shall be found to have escaped him, but he has not spared himself in the endeavour to render the typography of the Work worthy of the Society.

Aid towards the illustration of this Volume has been received from the Right Hon. Lord Clermont; the Rev. Samuel Hayman; Captain Edward Hoare, North Cork Rifles; W. H. King, Esq.; Richard R. Brash, Esq.; and W. Williams, Esq.: to all of whom the thanks of the Society are due.

JAMES GRAVES, A. B.

KILKENNY, *December* 31, 1857.